TOKYOPOP®

REDRUM

THREETWENTYSEVEN™

YA-SEONG KO

2

REDRUM 327

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REDRUM THREETWENTYSEVEN

VOLUME 2
BY
YA-SEONG KO

TOKYOPOP

HAMBURG // LONDON // LOS ANGELES // TOKYO

HA - A STRAIGHT-TALKING GUY WITH HIS OWN HIP-HOP GROUP

JEONGUN - SON OF A FAMOUS DESIGNER. HAS A THING FOR GAHUI AND DOESN'T CARE WHO KNOWS.

HYERI - INTRODUCED GAHUI TO REST OF THE GROUP. HAS A HUGE CRUSH ON TAEIN.

GIHU - VERY QUIET AND RESERVED. OFTEN PICKED ON BY REST OF THE GROUP

CAST OF CHARACTERS

TAEIN - THE "NICE GUY" OF THE GROUP. HE FALLS FOR GAHUI PRETTY QUICKLY.

JUEUN - THE RICHEST MEMBER OF THE CLIQUE. HAS A VERY ICY PERSONALITY

GAHUI - RECENTLY JOINED THE CLIQUE. OCCASIONALLY, SHE IS HAUNTED BY SOMETHING UNSEEN.

LAST TIME IN...

REDRUM THREETWENTYSEVEN

EARLIER TODAY, SEVEN YOUNG COLLEGE STUDENTS SET OUT FOR A FUN WEEKEND GETAWAY AT A REMOTE MOUNTAIN VILLA...BUT IT HAS ALREADY BEGUN TO GO HORRIBLY WRONG. GAHUI, A BEAUTIFUL GIRL WHOM THE BUBBLY HYERI JUST INTRODUCED TO THE GROUP, HAS BEEN EXPERIENCING DISTURBING HALLUCINATIONS AND FEELINGS OF DÉJÀ VU. THE ICY JUEUN AND STUBBORN HA ALREADY HAVE A CURRENT OF DEEP-ROOTED HOSTILITY BETWEEN THEM. JEONGUN HAS ALREADY MADE A COMPLETE DRUNKEN ASS OF HIMSELF. AND EVERYONE BUT GAHUI AND TAEIN HAS BEEN CONSTANTLY PICKING ON THE QUIET, RESERVED GIHU. BUT THINGS REALLY GOT BAD WHEN HYERI, WHO HAS A CRUSH ON TAEIN, DISCOVERED HIM LOCKED IN EMBRACE WITH GAHUI. FURIOUS, SHE FLED THE HOUSE...ONLY TO BE STRUCK DOWN, BOUND, GAGGED AND LEFT TO DIE BY AN UNKNOWN ASSAILANT.

MEANWHILE, BACK AT THE HOUSE, THE REST OF THE CREW SITS IN AWKWARD SILENCE, OBLIVIOUS TO WHAT IS ABOUT TO UNFOLD.

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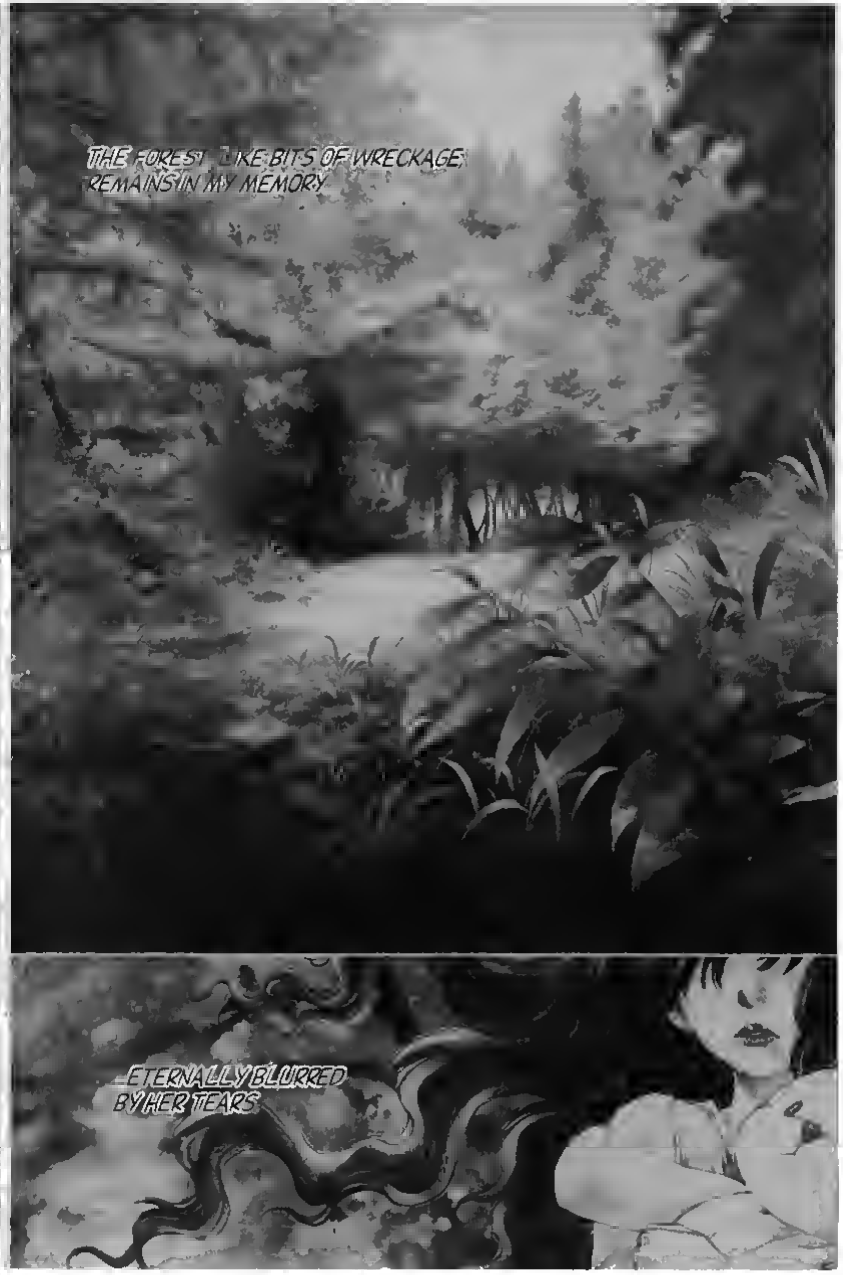
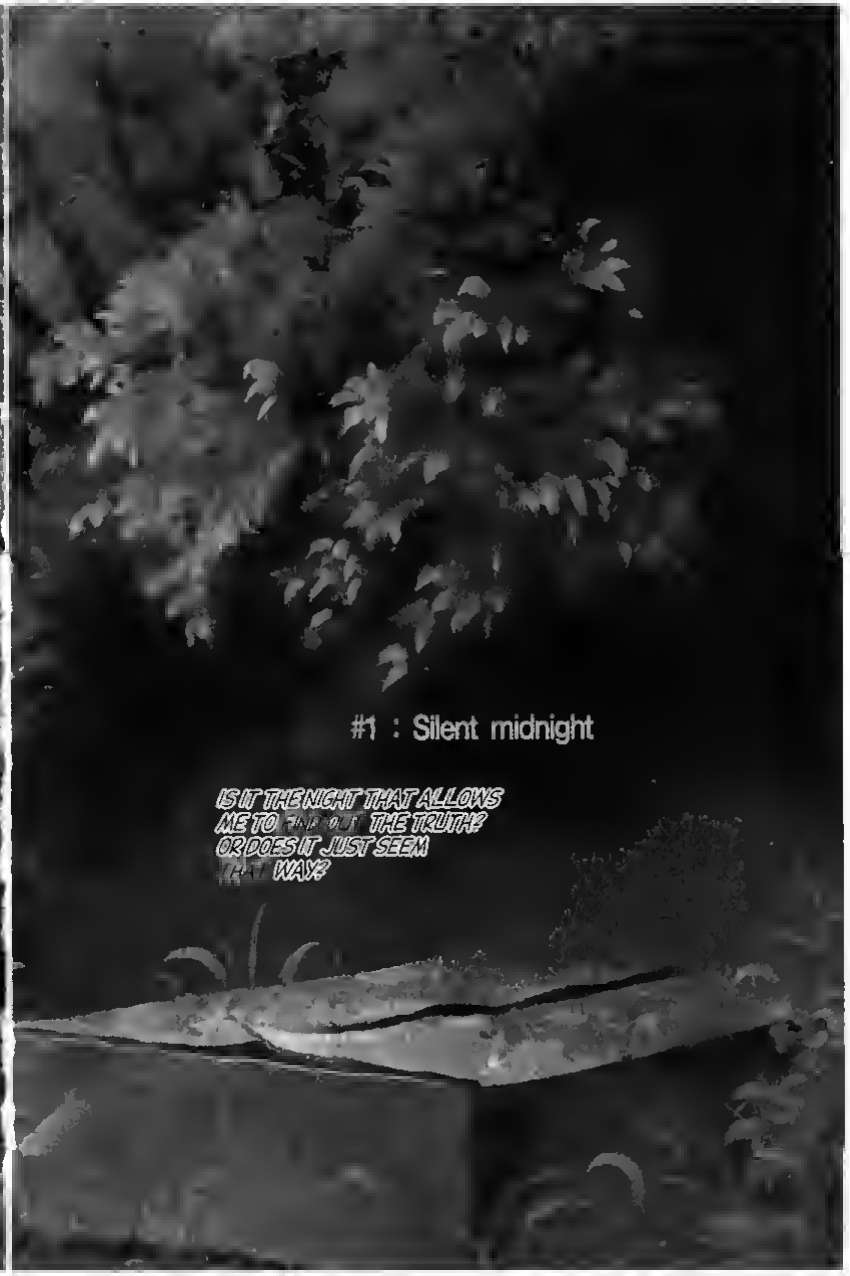


DID I RUN BECAUSE THOSE TEARS HURT ME?


#1 : Silent midnight
IS IT THE NIGHT THAT ALLOWS
ME TO
THE TRUTH?
OR DOES IT JUST SEEM
WAY?

z
z

SO...IS THIS THE END?
I DIDN'T THINK FRIENDSHIPS COULD END SO EASILY.
HOW COULD I NOT HAVE NOTICED?

IT WAS RIGHT IN FRONT OF ME
...AND I COULDN'T EVEN SEE IT
TAEIN!
WHAT KIND OF GIRLS DO YOU LIKE?
HUH?
WHAT'S THAT SUPPOSED TO MEAN?
YOU KNOW... WHAT'S YOUR DREAM GIRL?
HMM... I DON'T KNOW
I LIKE 'EM ALL... I GUESS
COME ON. YOU CAN TELL ME
I'VE KNOWN YOU FOREVER AND I STILL DON'T HAVE A CLUE
....

NICOLE KIDMAN!
DANG.
I DIDN'T [illegible] FOR YOUR FAVORITE CELEBRITY!
QUIT SCREWING AROUND.
OKAY.
DO I REALLY HAVE TO COMMIT TO ONE TYPE?
I COULD EASILY END UP WITH SOMEONE COMPLETELY DIFFERENT.
IT'S UNFAIR TO LIMIT YOURSELF
SO? I'M STILL CURIOUS.
WHY?
QUIT BEING SO MYSTERIOUS
JUST TELL ME
TAEIN!
AH...
...
MOULIN ROUGE
NICOLE KIDMAN. I THINK SHE'S SEXY.
STOP AVOIDING THE SUBJECT!

WHY CAN'T YOU EVER BE SERIOUS WITH ME?
IT REALLY SUCKS.
YOU ALWAYS DO THIS
OKAY SO WHAT IS IT?
DO YOU GO FOR THE "CUTE" TYPE?
THE WHAT?
YOU KNOW.. A BIT CHATTY, A BIT OF A TOMBOY..
HM?
TAEIN?
HYERI...
GOD, TAEIN!
ARE YOU TRYING TO SET ME UP WITH A BLIND DATE? I TOLD YOU, I DON'T DO THOSE
WHO SAID ANYTHING ABOUT A DATE?
WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?
PFFT.

AEIN...
ANYWAY
I HAVE TO FINISH THIS OUR REPORT IS DUE TOMORROW I DOUBT YOU'VE FINISHED YOURSELF
.....
THAT WAS HER WAY OF TELLING ME.
IT MUST'VE BEEN SO HARD FOR HER. AND YET, I NEVER ONCE SAW HER GET ANGRY ABOUT IT.

NO, TAEIN!
I'D RATHER DIE!
!!
WHAT WAS THAT?

DID HYERI JUST SAY...
HAS THIS HAPPENED BEFORE?

HELP ME!

EXCUSE ME... TAEIN?
HUH?

WHAT ARE YOU DOING OUT HERE BY YOURSELF?
UM... I WAS JUST...
HEY, WHAT ABOUT YOU? WHERE HAVE YOU BEEN?
I HAD SOMETHING TO DO IN THE BASEMENT
YOU KNOW CLEANING.
YOU'RE UPSET BECAUSE OF HYERI, AREN'T YOU?
I...JUST... DON'T KNOW WHAT DO
HYERI... GAHUI...
I CAN'T HELP BUT THINK I'VE MADE A MISTAKE.

I MEAN, WE'VE ALL BEEN CLOSE SINCE WE WERE KIDS.
CAN YOU BELIEVE THAT? THAT'S 20 YEARS
I WAS SURE THAT NO MATTER WHAT HAPPENED, WE'D ALWAYS STAY STRONG.
AND NOW I THINK I'VE RUINED THAT
WELL... YOU'RE ONLY HUMAN.
AND HUMANS AREN'T PERFECT
FRIENDS, LOVERS, PARENTS...
...EVERY RELATIONSHIP HAS TO END EVENTUALLY.
BUT...

I KNOW THAT, GIHU
BUT EVEN IF THOSE RELATIONSHIPS HAVE TO END...
THEY SHOULDN'T HAVE TO END IN PAIN.
I HURT BOTH OF THEM SO MUCH, AND THEY HURT EACH OTHER.
THAT'S WHAT UPSETS ME SO MUCH
.....
BOTH OF YOU CAN GO TO HELL!
IF ONLY THAT WOULD MAKE UP FOR IT.
BECAUSE THE MOST UPSETTING PART IS HOW MUCH THOSE WORDS DIDN'T HURT ME.

EVEN KNOWING HOW HURT HYERI WAS...
...IT WAS GAHUI'S TEARS THAT TORE ME APART.
TAEIN...
YOU ARE SO MISGUIDED.
YOU THINK YOU'RE SUCH A SAINT.

WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?
YOU HAVE A "NICE GUY" COMPLEX. YOU ALWAYS HAVE TO DO THE RIGHT THING
THAT'S WHY YOU'RE SO UPSET.
"I'M SO SORRY.. I DIDN'T KNOW YOU FELT THAT WAY."

BUT CAN YOU EVER TRULY KNOW HOW ANOTHER PERSON FEELS?
PEOPLE ARE LIKE COMPUTERS YOU CAN'T HACK
LIKE UNSOLVABLE RIDDLES
BUT...
I MEAN, LOGICALLY, YOU'RE RIGHT.
BUT PEOPLE ARE COMPLEX
LIKE UNHACKABLE CODES.
AND THE DEEPER YOU GO THE MORE COMPLEX THEY GET
.....
HUH MAYBE YOU'RE RIGHT

NOW THAT I THINK ABOUT IT
...I'VE NEVER ACTUALLY TRIED TO UNDERSTAND ANYONE'S FEELINGS.
I JUST ACCEPTED WHAT I SAW ON THE OUTSIDE LOOKING DEEPER WOULD BE INTRUSIVE
GUESS THAT WAS CONVENIENT FOR ME
FREED ME OF THE RESPONSIBILITY FOR ANYONE'S FEELINGS.
WHOA! LOOK AT THE TIME!
I SHOULD GO TO BED
HONESTLY DON'T WORRY ABOUT WHAT I SAID IT WAS A BUNCH OF CRAP ANYWAY
IT'LL WORK OUT FINE
EVERYONE KNOWS YOU'RE A GOOD PERSON

NO, GIHU. IT WASN'T CRAP.
ACTUALLY, IT REALLY HELPED.
WELL, GOOD. I'M GLAD.
SO WHY DO I FEEL SO UNEASY?
GOOD NIGHT, GIHU
SEE YA TOMORROW!
IS EVERYONE HERE JUST SOME SORT OF UNBREAKABLE CODE?

I FEEL LIKE I'M MISSING SOMETHING IMPORTANT...

.....

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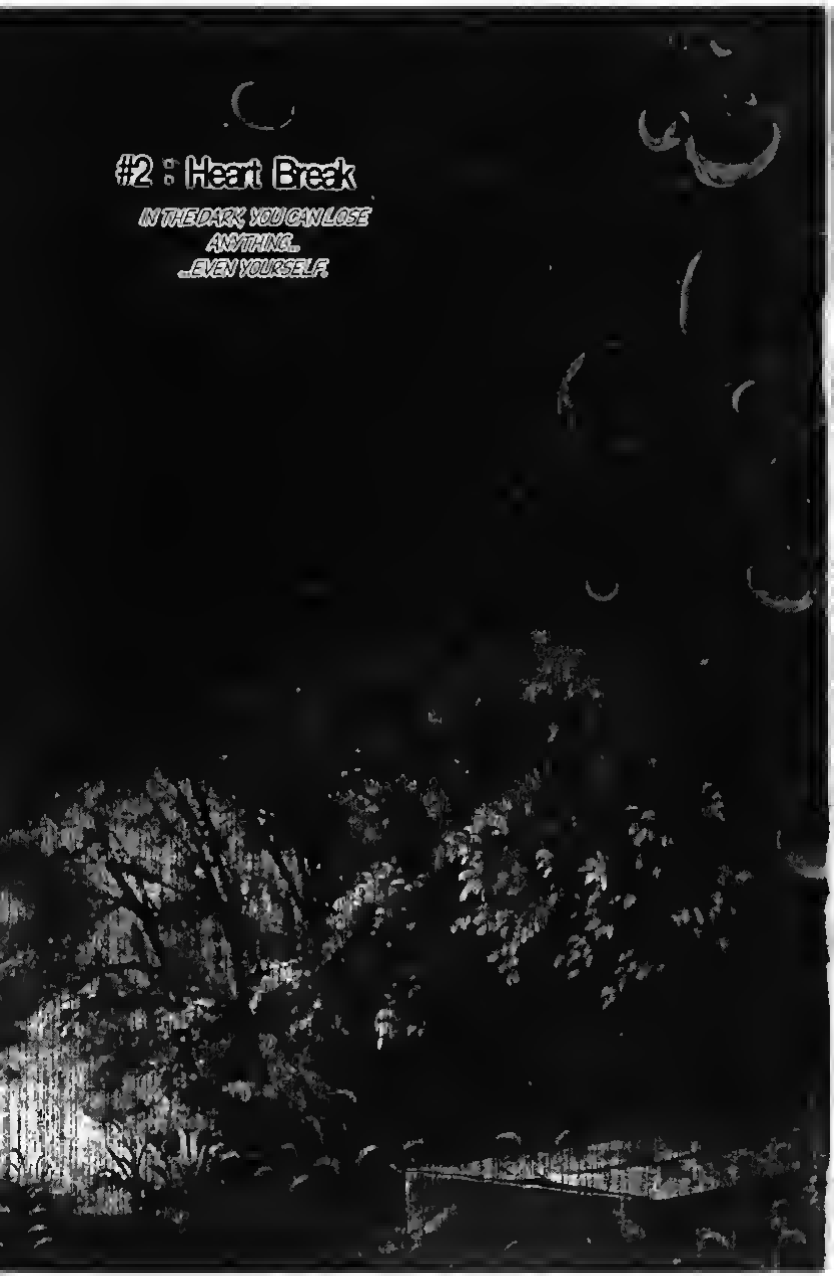
#2 : Heart Break
IN THE DARK, YOU CAN LOSE ANYTHING...
...EVEN YOURSELF.

FRIENDS, LOVERS, PARENTS...
...EVERY RELATIONSHIP HAS TO END EVENTUALLY.
DUMB ASS.
EVERYONE KNOWS THAT.
BUT SOMETIMES YOU HAVE TO TAKE THE RISK AND LEARN THE HARD WAY.

AND SOMETIMES IT'S BETTER NOT TO TRY AT ALL.
BECAUSE SOME THINGS END BEFORE YOU'VE EVEN STARTED
!!

WHAT?
WHAT ARE YOU DOING UP HERE? YOU SCARED ME
...
STOP STARING YOU'RE CREEPING ME OUT!
GO TO SLEEP. OR AT LEAST GO AWAY.
THERE YOU GO AGAIN! WOULD IT KILL YOU TO SAY SOMETHING NICE FOR ONCE?
YOU'RE ALWAYS SO POISONOUS.
DON'T MAKE ME LAUGH!
WHAT AM I SUPPOSED TO SAY TO YOU?

IT'S BEEN FOUR YEARS HA. I'VE HAD TO DEAL WITH THIS FOR FOUR YEARS...AND YOU THINK I SHOULD BE POLITE?
DO YOU HAVE ANY IDEA HOW HELLISH THOSE FOUR YEARS HAVE BEEN?
HATING YOU IS MY ONLY OUTLET
BESIDES YOU'RE SUCH A JERK!
MAYBE YOU'VE FORGOTTEN...
..BUT YOU'RE THE REASON I ACT THIS WAY.
.....!

IN TWO DAYS...
...I'M GOING TO VISIT YOUR FATHER.
WHAT?
"WHAT?" ARE YOU DEAF? I SAID I'M GOING TO SEE YOUR FATHER AND YOUR GREAT AUNT.
ARE YOU CRAZY?!

TEMPER, TEMPER...
WHY ARE YOU SCREAMING?
YOU WOULDN'T.
I WOULD RATHER DIE!
SHAMELESS JERK!
THEN...
...YOU DON'T WANT ME TO GO?

IF I DON'T GO, THEN WHAT? ARE YOU GOING TO TELL YOUR GREAT AUNT?
IS THAT WHAT YOU'D PREFER?
YOU THINK I DON'T HAVE THE GUTS TO TELL HER MYSELF!
YOU'RE RIGHT I DON'T
I'LL TELL HER! I WILL!!
EVEN IF SHE SENDS ME AWAY IT'LL STILL BE BETTER THAN THIS!
I'LL LIVE SOMEPLACE ELSE, WHERE I WON'T HAVE TO SEE YOU!

THAT WOULD BE A HUNDRED TIMES BETTER.
OH, COME ON.
YOU WANNA DO THIS THING LONG DISTANCE?
SERIOUSLY. DO YOU THINK I'M RUNNING BECAUSE I'M SCARED OF YOU?
NO! I HATE THAT THIS INVOLVES YOU.

IF YOU JUST WANT TO RUN AWAY...
...THEN WHY DID YOU DRAG THIS OUT FOR FOUR YEARS?
//
WHY DID YOU STRING ME ALONG ALL THIS TIME?
I DON'T BELIEVE THIS!
YOU'RE TRYING TO BLAME ME...
TOOK THE WORDS RIGHT OUT OF MY MOUTH
...BUT YOU MADE THINGS THE WAY THEY ARE.
SO JUST GET OVER YOURSELF.

SLAP

I STARTED IT? YOU'RE SAYING THIS IS ALL BECAUSE I'M STUBBORN?
THEN HOW DO YOU EXPLAIN THE WAY YOU'VE TREATED ME UP TO THIS POINT? IS IT REVENGE?
HAVE YOU STUCK AROUND JUST TO PUNISH ME?

FINE. IT'S MY FAULT FOR DRAGGING IT OUT FOR FOUR YEARS. I KNEW IT WAS STUPID
IF IT WEREN'T FOR ME, YOU WOULDN'T BE LIKE THIS
I CAN'T TAKE THIS ANYMORE.
I'M GOING TO END IT ALL.
WHAT?
WAIT, JUEUN.

"END IT ALL"?
THIS BETTER NOT BE ANOTHER STUPID GAME.
IT'S DONE.
THERE'S NO TURNING BACK NOW.
.....
SNIP
SNIP

J-JERK!
SHIT
MAYBE THIS WAS MY FAULT.
DAMN.
I NEED TO MAKE A DECISION.
!!
OH! AH...
YOU LITTLE...

NO. WAIT!
PUNK!
HOW LONG WERE YOU STANDING THERE, YOU LITTLE RAT?!
WHAT DID YOU HEAR?!

WH-WHAT DO YOU MEAN?
I JUST GOT HERE
I DIDN'T HEAR ANYTHING!
.....!
YEAH, RIGHT, PUNK.

I DON'T CARE IF I SHOULDN'T
...I HATE YOU. SO STAY OUT OF MY WAY.
MAYBE AT LEAST ONE OF US CAN AVOID HAVING A SHITTY DAY
.....
EVERYONE HAS A DARK SIDE
"HE" AND "K" ARE INDEPENDENT
"KD" IS HIDDEN.

I SUSPECTED IT BEFORE... BUT THIS CONFIRMS IT.
ADD THE DESCRAMBLING KEY K_{d_A}...
$M \equiv C^{K_{d_A}} \bmod n_A$...
K_{d_A}...
...WHICH MEANS THAT JUEUN AND HA...
THE TRUTH IS COMPLETELY SHROUDED IN DARKNESS...THE BEST WE CAN DO IS GUESS.
...ARE NEXT.

SO UNLESS THE TRUTH IS SPOKEN.
...THE PEOPLE INVOLVED HIDE THEIR FEELINGS EVEN MORE. ESPECIALLY WHEN THEY KNOW THAT THEY CAN'T BE HEALED.
THE RESULT IS SCARS THAT RUN VERY DEEP.

LEFTOVER WOUNDS LEAD TO MORE PAIN
THESE ARE RECIPROCAL..
WE IGNORE THE PAIN.. IT EXPLODES INTO ANGER..
$K_e \cdot K \equiv 1 \bmod \phi(n)$
AND THIS 'E' IS OPTIMAL.

$\equiv 1 \bmod 2668$
...WE LASH OUT, NOT REALIZING HOW MUCH WE HURT OURSELVES IN THE PROCESS...
SO THE LETTER...
OKAY
...AND THE VICIOUS CYCLE CONTINUES.
FINALLY...
1627^{17}

SO, YOU STILL HATE ME..
..EVEN THOUGH YOU SHOULDN'T?
WELL, I HATE ALL OF YOU.

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#3 : Her ghost in the forest
THE DARK MEMORIES THAT RESIDE IN THE INNERMOST PART OF YOUR FEELINGS....

Rock-a-bye baby, in the treetop...
When the wind blows, the cradle will rock..
When the bough breaks, the cradle will fall..
And down will come baby.
IS THAT A SONG I HEAR SINGING...
BUT IT'S SO FAMILIAR
IT'S A LULLABY.

COULD IT BE... HIM?
IT'S NOT A STRANGER. I KNOW THAT VOICE
WHO'S THERE?

I'M TRYING TO REMEMBER.
WHY?
WHY DID YOU FORGET?

AH!
SO MUCH... SADNESS...
WHY DID YOU FORGET?
I DIDN'T.
I REMEMBER EVERYTHING!
!!

A FOREST?!

JEONGUN! WAKE UP!
GO BACK TO YOUR ROOM.
MMM... NNGH... URGH... ZZZ...
WHATEVER, DUDE.
JUST DON'T BITCH TO ME ABOUT HAVING A SORE THROAT TOMORROW.

I STILL DON'T KNOW WHAT TO DO.
ALL I KNOW IS...
...I CAN'T GET GAHUI OUT OF MY HEAD.

THIS FOREST...
I KNOW THIS PLACE.

WHO'S THERE?!
IT'S A GIRL!

NO!

DON'T GO OVER THERE!

NOT THAT WAY!
DON'T! THERE'S--!!

AAHH...!
NOOO!

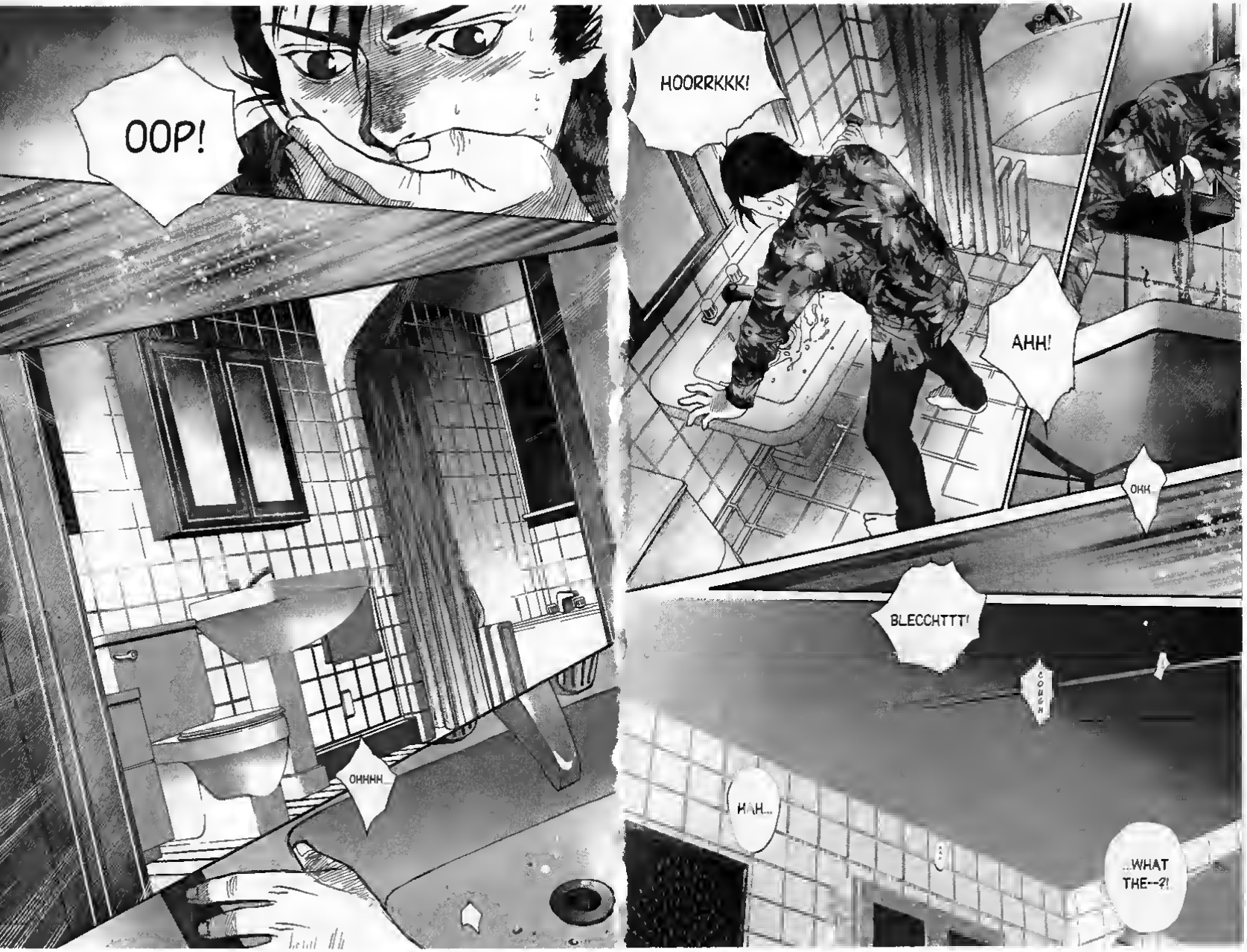
WHAT'S WRONG?
WE'RE JUST
YING HIDE-AND-SEEK.

LET ME OUT!
IT'S SCARY IN HERE! GET ME OUT OF HERE!
TAEIN!

WHAT WAS THAT?
I HEARD SOMEONE... CALLING OUT FOR ME

MUST'VE BEEN MY IMAGINATION.
KUAH!
YOW... HAH...GUH...
COUGH
SHIT...THANK GOD! IT WAS JUST A DREAM!
SO REAL...I THOUGHT I WAS DROWNING
OF ALL THINGS...
...WHY A SEA OF BLOOD...?

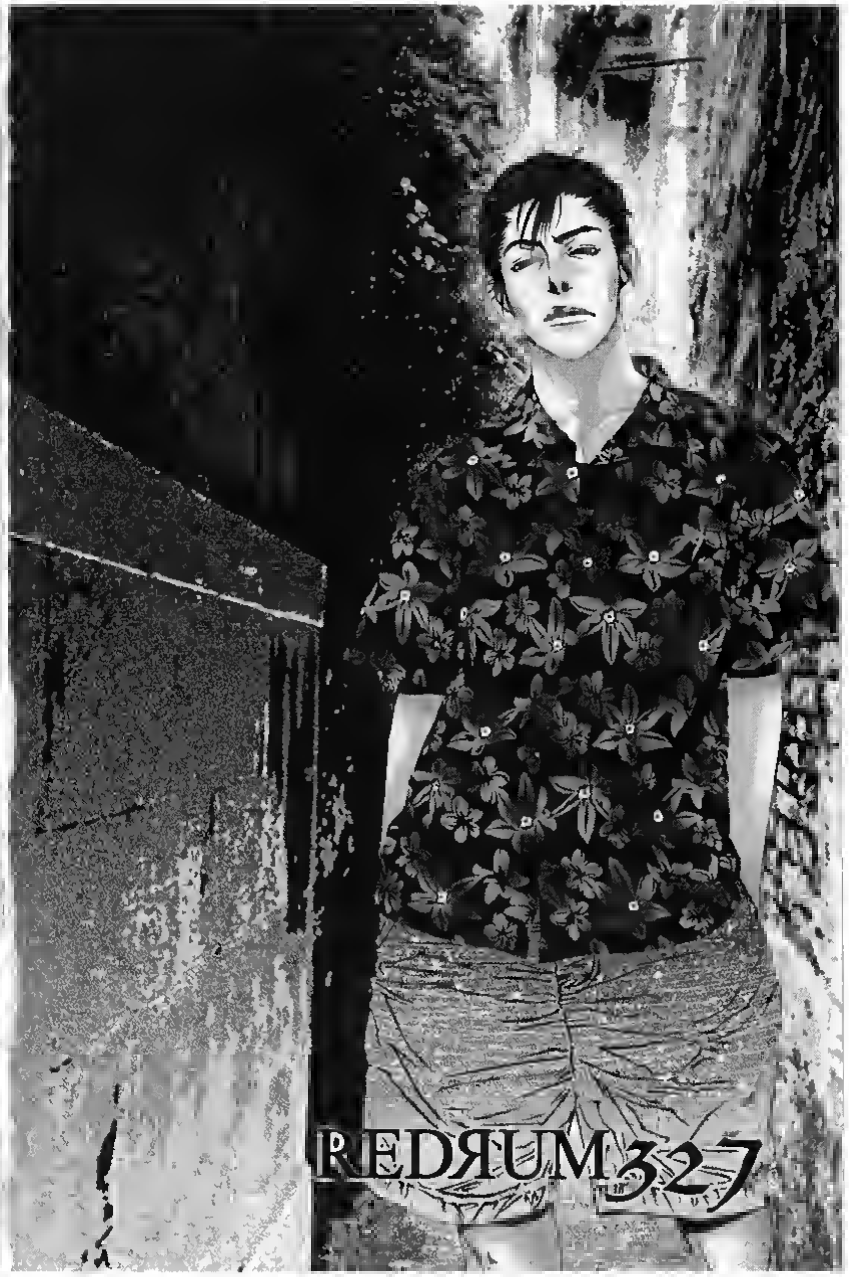
DAMN...THIS IS ALL BECAUSE OF YESTERDAY
MUST'VE DRUNK MORE THAN I THOUGHT...
GLUG GLUG
HUAH...!
WHAT'S WITH THIS WATER? TASTES KIND OF SOUR...
I DIDN'T DRINK THAT MUCH, DID I?
WAIT...ISN'T A DREAM ABOUT A SEA OF BLOOD GOOD LUCK?
BURP
NASTIER THE DREAM, BETTER THE FORTUNE, RIGHT?
HEH, MAYBE I SHOULD BUY A LOTTERY TICKET...
!!!


OOP!
OHHHH...
HOORRKKK!
AHH!
OHH
BLECCHTTT!
COUGH
HAH...
..WHAT THE--?!

DAMN
WHOA!
WH-WHA...
OOF!
WHAT THE HELL?!
WHAT-- WHY--
WHY IS THE FLOOR SO SLIPPERY?!
...EH...?
BUBBLES? IS THIS.. SOAP?

ALL RIGHT, WHO LEFT THIS HERE?
I BET IT WAS GIHU!
I'LL KILL THAT LITTLE TURD.
AH! MY BACK!
I THINK I BROKE MY TAILBONE!
OOH
AHHH ..
WHY AM I SO DIZZY?
CRAP!

OH, NO...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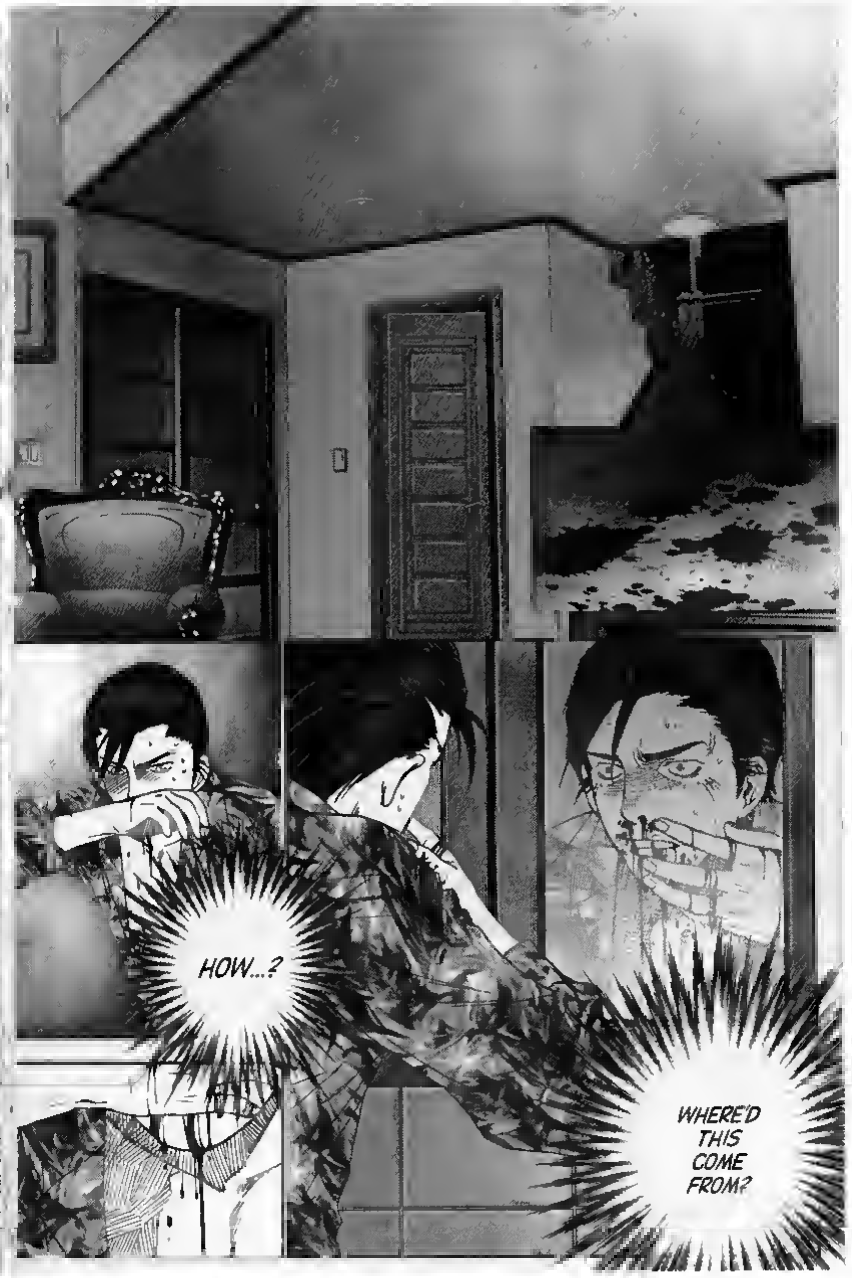
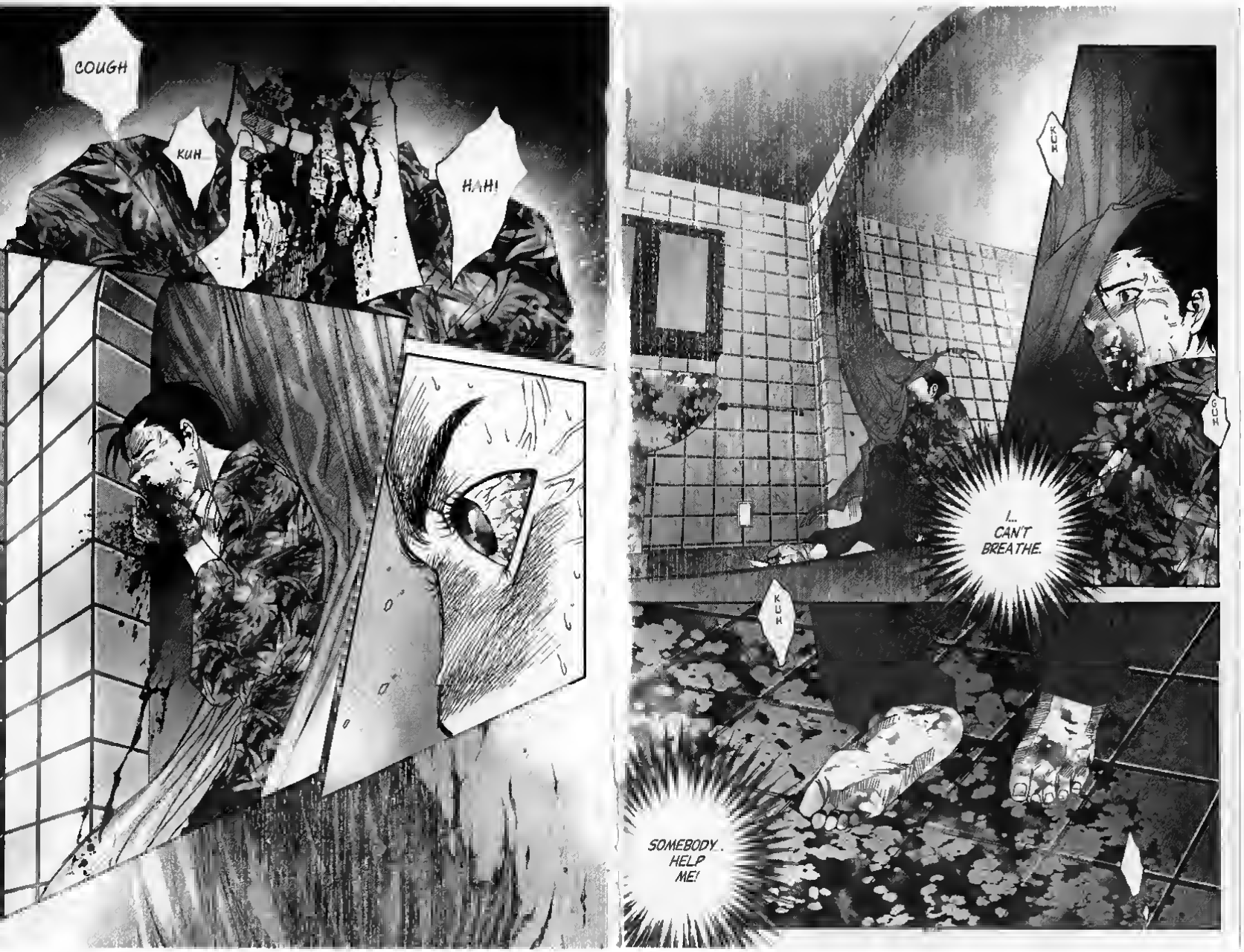
#4 : Vanitas
IN THIS SEA OF MEMORIES... I HOPE YOU DROWN.


HOW...?
WHERE'D THIS COME FROM?

WHA...
BOTH SIDES?
WHAT'S GOING ON? I...FEEL...
HOORRKK!
BLECCHH!
Cough
Hah!
WHAT'S HAPPENING?!

!!!
KUH!
Cough
Gah!
KUAH!


COUGH
KUH
HAH!
ICK
ICK
I... CAN'T BREATHE.
KUH
SOMEBODY. HELP ME!

KUH
K
HAH
HAH
G-GIHU...?
COUGH
KUHH
KUH...!
THIS IS WHAT HAPPENS WHEN YOU SWALLOW A CORROSIVE POISON
KAH
I WORRIED YOU MIGHT NOTICE THE TASTE BEFORE YOU SWALLOWED

BUT THEN AGAIN...
...YOU DID HAVE A LOT TO DRINK LAST NIGHT.
COUGH
GAK!
SO...
HAH
DON'T WORRY IT'LL ALL BE OVER IN TWENTY MINUTES
HAH!
BUT I DON'T ENVY YOU THESE LAST FEW.

I GUESS IT'S MY LUCKY DAY.
I'VE ALWAYS WANTED TO SEE YOU SUFFER.
HAH
HAH

GAHUI...
HEY!
GAHUI!
HOW LONG DID YOU PLAN ON SLEEPING?
!!!
HEY!

OH, NO ..WHAT TIME IS IT?
HALF PAST NINE. DON'T WORRY, THE BOYS JUST GOT UP THEMSELVES.
!!!
THERE IT GOES AGAIN...
I'VE BEEN FEELING LIKE THIS SINCE I GOT HERE.
MY HEAD WON'T STOP THROBBING.

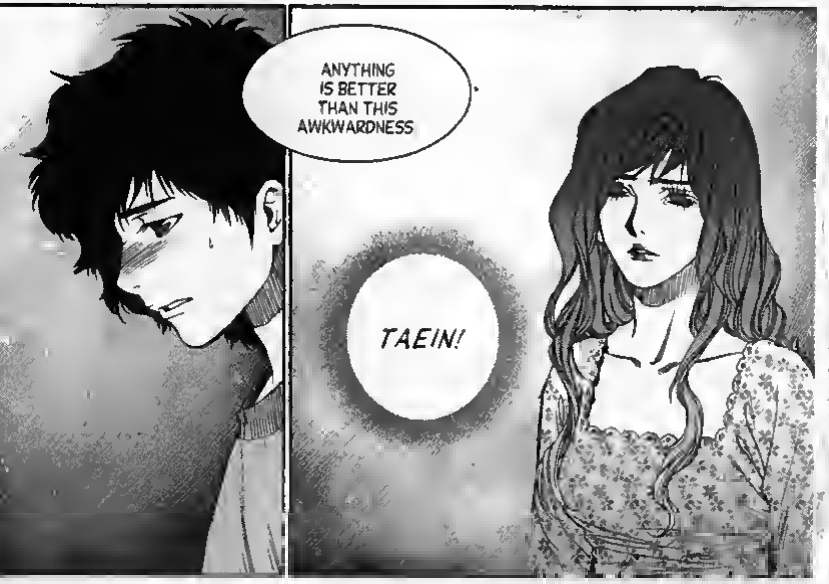
GAHUI...?
TAEIN!
DID YOU SLEEP OKAY? YOU LOOK TIRED

WE'RE GOING TO GO OUT AROUND NOON.
YOU SHOULD HAVE AT LEAST A LIGHT BREAKFAST
AH...THAT'S FINE.
NOW THAT I'M FACE-TO-FACE WITH HIM...
...I DON'T KNOW WHAT TO SAY.

IF THIS IS TOO HARD FOR YOU, I'LL LET YOU WALK AWAY

I WOULDN'T HOLD IT AGAINST YOU AT ALL.
ALL MY FAULT
I COMPLETELY DISREGARDED THE FEELINGS OF TWO PEOPLE
YOU DIDN'T DO ANYTHING WRONG

SO YOU DON'T NEED TO AVOID ME.
JUST TRY TO TREAT ME LIKE YOU DID BEFORE.


ANYTHING IS BETTER THAN THIS AWKWARDNESS
TAEIN!

I'M SORRY.
WE CAN'T GO BACK TO HOW IT WAS.

DON'T BLAME YOURSELF

IF IT REALLY WERE ONLY YOUR FAULT...
...I WOULDN'T BE FEELING SO MISERABLE RIGHT NOW.
GAHUI..
I WAS ALSO WRONG.
THIS HURTS ME TOO.
I LIKE YOU SO MUCH.

UM...
IS THERE ANY TRASH IN HERE THAT NEEDS TO BE EMPTIED?
GIHU!
THERE'S AN EMPTY WATER BOTTLE NEXT TO THE SINK
WHAT ABOUT BREAKFAST? DO YOU WANT SOME CORN FLAKES?

NO,
I'M FINE
I'LL EAT LATER
I DON'T FEEL SO
GOOD RIGHT NOW.
AH... IS IT BECAUSE
OF THE DRINKING? I'M
A BIT LIKE
THAT, TOO.
.....

LET ME WHIP
YOU UP A BATCH OF
MY HANGOVER
CURE!
HA HA...
OKAY...
.....
꾸 꾸 꾸 ㅡ

HEY, WHERE'S JEONGUN?
HM?
HE WAS SLEEPING IN THE LIVING ROOM LAST NIGHT
UGH...WHERE'D THAT FOOL GO THIS TIME? REMEMBER WHEN WE FOUND HIM PASSED OUT IN THE CAR?

WHO'S IN THERE?
OPEN THE DOOR!
쾅쾅
WHAT'S GOING ON?
SOMEBODY LOCKED THE BATHROOM DOOR
IS IT JEONGUN? LET ME HANDLE THIS.

JEONGUN? ARE YOU IN THERE?
.....
HEY! JEONGUN!

WAKE UP!
KNOCK! KNOCK!
WAKE UP!!!
KNOCK KNOCK!

WHAT'S GOING ON? IS JEONGUN ASLEEP IN THERE?
PROBABLY. HE'S GOT A HISTORY OF PASSING OUT IN WEIRD PLACES
GIHU, GET ME THE KEY.
HUH?
O-OKAY

WHY DOES HE ALWAYS HAVE TO PASS OUT IN SOME STRANGE PLACE?
HEY. THE BATHROOM'S AN IMPROVEMENT OVER LAST TIME.
YEAH. REMEMBER WHEN HE FELL IN THAT MANHOLE?
HOW ABOUT THE TIME HE FELL ASLEEP INSIDE THE BOOKCASE?
EVERYONE, GET YOUR CAMERAS READY!

HERE'S THE KEY.
IT'S THE THIRD ONE. THE SMALL ONE.
SERIOUSLY. HE'S SO ANNOYING.
SHOULD I GET OUT THE CAMCORDER?
THIS IS GOING UP ON THE SCHOOL BULLETIN BOARD.

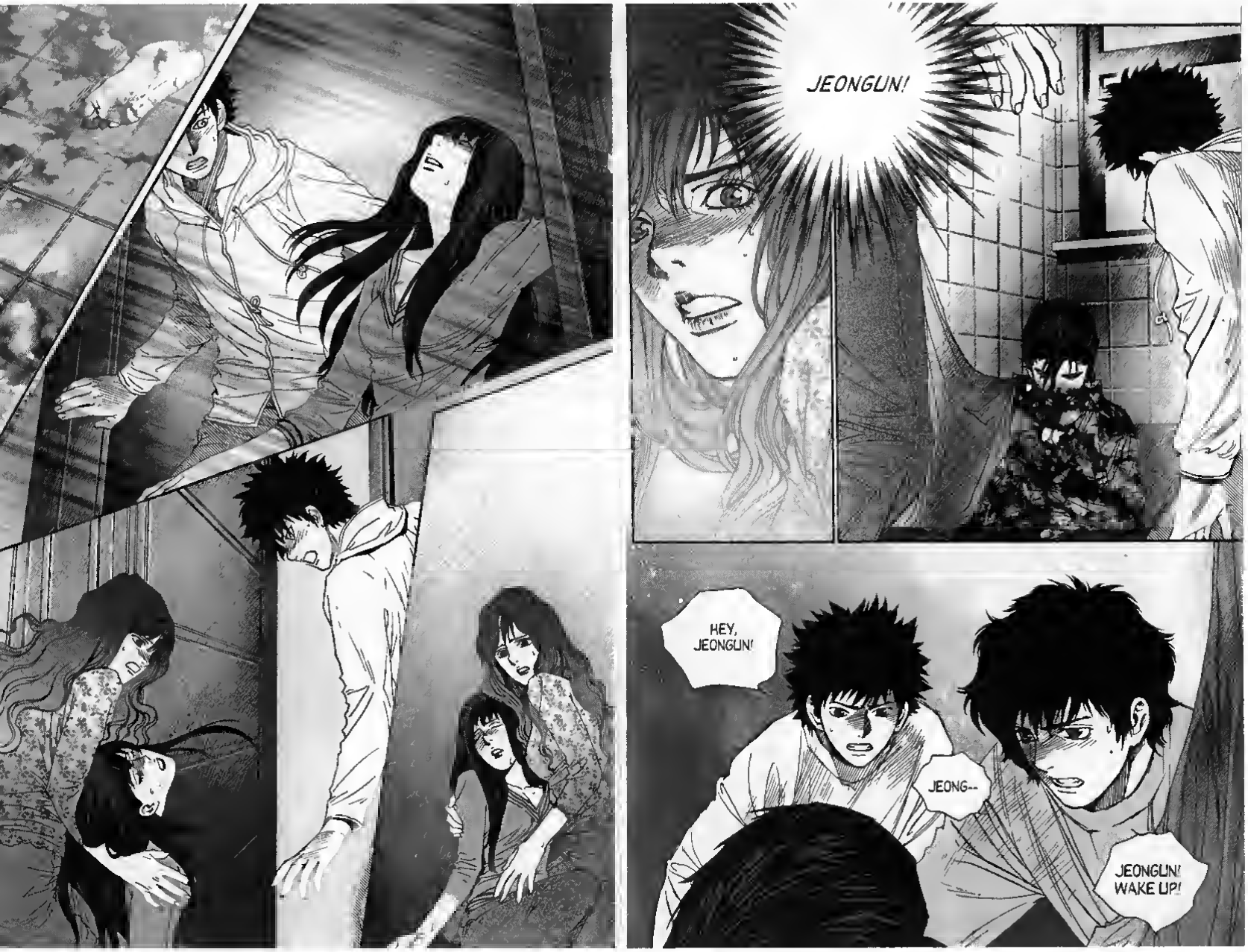
THERE'S AN IDEA

HEY, JEONGUN! WAKE UP, YOU DRUNK!
WE'RE NOT GOING TO...
...?
WHAT?
IS HE THERE?

!!!

KYAAAAAH!
REDRUM327

#5 : Deja vu
I GET THE SENSE...
THIS HAS HAPPENED BEFORE...


JEONGUN!
HEY, JEONGUN!
JEONG--
JEONGUN! WAKE UP!

JEONG—
JEONGUN!
MY GOD.. HE'S DEAD!
GIHU!
DIAL 911! HURRY!
OKAY...
JEONGUN..
IS HE DEAD?
WHAT'S GOING ON?
GAHUI..
I'M NOT SURE YET.
GO...TAKE CARE OF JUEUN
SHE FAINTED. I'LL GO BACK DOWNSTAIRS.

WHAT CAN I DO?
GIHU, WHAT DID THEY SAY?
UM...
TAEIN?
THERE'S SOMETHING WRONG WITH THE PHONE.
NO MATTER HOW MANY TIMES I TRY, I CAN'T GET A SIGNAL.
WHAT?

WHAT ARE YOU SAYING?
YOU SAID THE LAND LINE WORKED!
THERE'S NO CELL PHONE RECEPTION HERE!
I.. I DON'T KNOW WHY.
IT WORKED BEFORE. I ALWAYS PAY THE BILL ON TIME..
YEAH, WELL, NOW IT DOESN'T WORK.
STOP IT! IT'S NOT HIS FAULT.

THEN WHOSE FAULT IS IT? WHOSE HOUSE IS THIS?
WHAT ARE WE EVEN DOING HERE?
WHAT THE HELL IS GOING ON?

SNIFF
SNIFF

SNIFF
NO!
I DON'T
WANT TO
BE HERE!
JEONGUN!
SNIFF
GAHUI!

HOW'S
JUEUN?
.....
WE CAN'T EVEN
CALL AN AMBULANCE
BECAUSE THE
STUPID PHONES
AREN'T WORKING!
BY THE LOOKS OF IT,
I DON'T THINK THERE'S
MUCH THEY COULD
DO ANYWAY
IT DEFINITELY LOOKS
LIKE THIS HAPPENED
WHILE HE WAS
THROWING UP.
I DIDN'T THINK
HE DRANK
THAT MUCH

WHAT ARE WE GOING TO DO NOW?
LET'S THINK FOR A BIT.
I TOLD YOU! THIS IS ALL BECAUSE OF THAT PUNK GIRL!
HA!

THIS HOUSE?!
YOU'RE THE ONE WHO SAID WE SHOULD COME HERE IN THE FIRST PLACE!
EVERYONE AGREED.

WHAT, ARE YOU TRYING TO BLAME SOMEONE ELSE?
STOP IT, HA.
THIS ISN'T THE TIME TO BE POINTING FINGERS

WE NEED AN AMBULANCE. WE NEED THE POLICE.
THE CLOSEST HOUSE IS TEN MILES FROM HERE. SO LET'S FIGURE OUT HOW TO GET THE PHONES WORKING.

YOU'RE SURE THE LAND LINE DIDN'T HAVE PROBLEMS BEFORE?
YES
THEN THE PROBLEM'S GOT TO BE IN THE WIRING.
THE LINE MUST BE CUT OR SOMETHING
TAEIN...
EVERYTHING SHOULD BE OKAY ONCE WE FIND THE BROKEN LINE. WE CAN RE CONNECT IT OURSELVES
OR WE'LL FIND ANOTHER WAY
YOU TRUST ME RIGHT, GAHUI?

TAEIN...
AH...
JUST A BIT DIZZY
WHAT'S WRONG, GAHUI?
ARE YOU OKAY?
THIS ISN'T GOO
YOU SHOULD GO GET SOME REST YOU DON'T LOOK WELL.

THE ROOM IS SPINNING AGAIN.
WHAT IS THIS?
WHY WON'T IT GO AWAY?

JUEUN!
YOU SAID THAT THE CLOSEST HOUSE WAS TEN MILES AWAY, RIGHT?
YES.
BUT--WAIT!

WHERE DO YOU THINK YOU'RE GOING, JUELIN?!
GET OUT OF MY WAY! I'M GOING TO GET THERE, EVEN IF I HAVE TO WALK!
JUELIN!
MOVE!
NO! YOU DON'T EVEN KNOW THE WAY!
THEN WHAT ARE WE SUPPOSED TO DO? SIT HERE AND STARE AT JEONGUN'S CORPSE?
SOMEBODY HAS TO GET OUT THERE AND CALL FOR HELP!
SOMETHING'S GOING TO HAPPEN TO ALL OF US IF WE JUST SIT AROUND!
I FEEL LIKE WE'RE ALL GOING TO DIE!
ALL OF US!
SNIFF
JUELIN...
DON'T TOUCH ME!

THIS IS ALL BECAUSE OF YOU!
WE'RE ONLY HERE BECAUSE HYERI WANTED TO THROW YOU A BIRTHDAY PARTY.
THAT'S WHY WE CAME HERE. NOW HYERI'S GOT THE CAR AND WE'RE STUCK WITH A DEAD BODY.
STOP IT.

IF IT WEREN'T FOR YOU
...WE WOULDN'T BE HERE!
NONE OF THIS WOULD HAVE EVER HAPPENED!
STOP IT, JUEUN!
NO MORE!
YOU! WHY DID IT HAVE TO BE YOUR BIRTHDAY?!

MY...BIRTHDAY?
I HA... STRANGE... WA... IT
REALLY MY BIRTHDAY?
WHY DOES THAT SEEM SO STRANGE?
I THOUGHT MY BIRTHDAY WAS...
GAHUI!
...NO. YESTERDAY...
YESTERDAY WASN'T MY BIRTHDAY.
GAHUI!

WHAT?
THAT DAY, THE FOREST...
...WAS INCREDIBLY HOT...SO I HID IN THE SHADE
BUT IT WAS STILL HOT
BECAUSE IT WAS THE MIDDLE OF THE SUMMER...YES...IT WAS JULY ....MY BIRTHDAY.

WHO THE HELL ARE YOU?

HA, YOU GO CHECK THE BASEMENT.
OKAY.
I'LL GO CHECK THE GARAGE
TELL ME IF YOU FIND IT.
OKAY. HURRY.

WE HAVE TO FIND IT SOON!
I REALLY FEEL LIKE SOMETHING'S GOING TO HAPPEN IF WE DON'T.
WHAT THE HELL IS GOING ON?

WHAT AM I SUPPOSED TO SAY TO JEONGUN'S PARENTS?
HEY THERE. LOOK WHAT HAPPENED TO YOUR SON"?
I HAVE A REALLY BAD FEELING ABOUT THIS.

HUH? WHAT'S THIS?
IT'S NOT LOCKED.
끼익-
EVERYTHING ABOUT THIS HOUSE IS CHEAP.
JUST LIKE ITS OWNER.

HUH..?
WHAT'S THIS DOING HERE?

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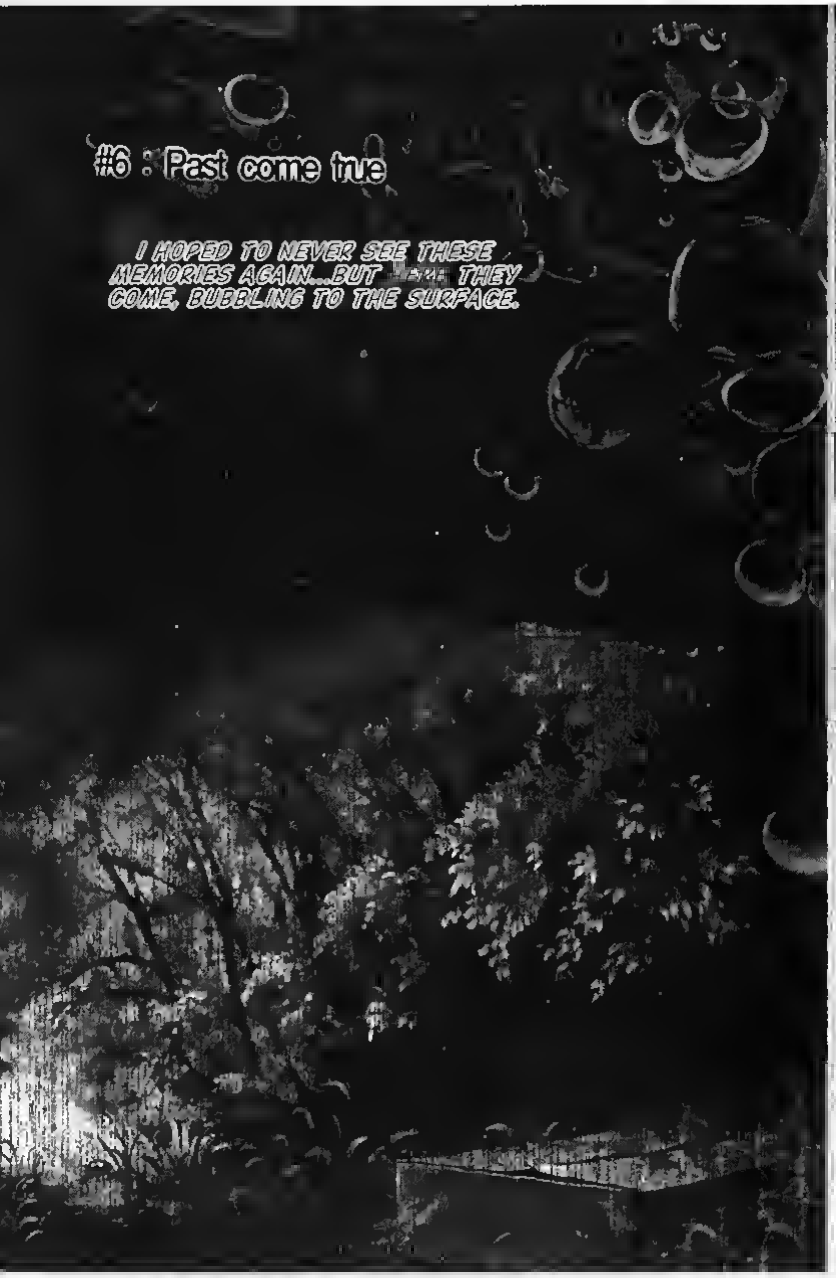
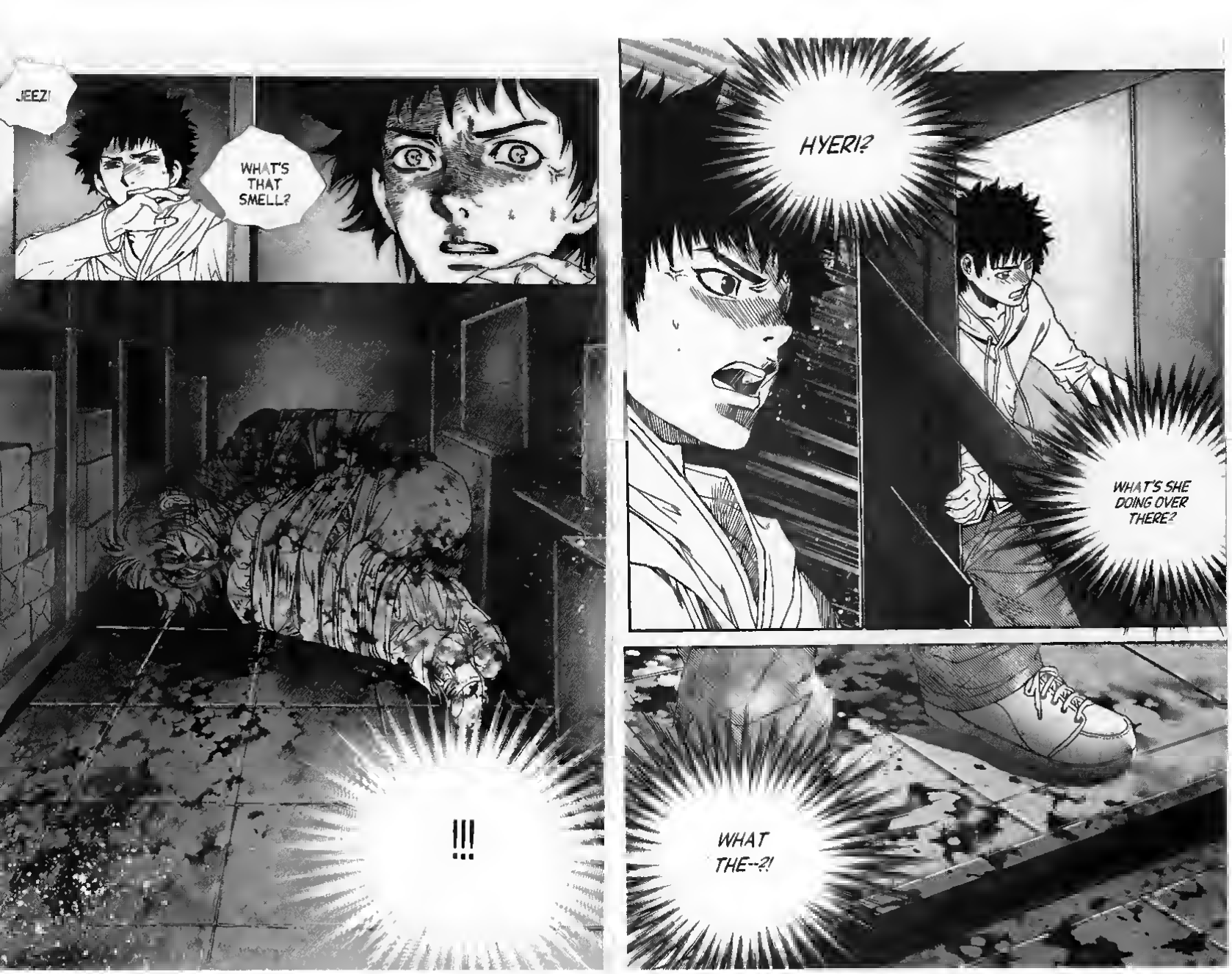

#6 : Past come true
I HOPED TO NEVER SEE THESE MEMORIES AGAIN...BUT THEY COME, BUBBLING TO THE SURFACE.

JUST AS I THOUGHT.
THERE'S NOTHING WRONG HERE.

IT MUST BE IN THE BASEMENT.
I THOUGHT HYERI TOOK THE CAR.
THERE'S NO OTHER WAY FOR HER TO GET OUT OF HERE.
HUH?

BLOOD?!
WHY IS THERE SO MUCH BLOOD?
IT'S LEADING TO THE FREEZER

ERROR
ERROR
GULP
I HAVE A VERY BAD FEELING ABOUT THIS.
NO...IT CAN'T BE.
AAAHH!


JEEZ!
WHAT'S THAT SMELL?
!!!
HYERI?
WHAT'S SHE DOING OVER THERE?
WHAT THE--?!

THIS CAN'T BE!
SOMEONE DID THIS TO HER!

UM...
T-TAEIN?

HYERI!!!

IT_IT CAN'T BE_
THIS_IS MURDER
SOMEONE DID THIS TO HER

AND...AND MAYBE JEONGUN'S INCIDENT WASN'T AN ACCIDENT, EITHER
LOOK AT THIS BLOOD! BOTH JEONGUN AND HYERI...!

HA?

YEAH?

GO GET GIHU...AND BRING JEONGUN'S BODY.
TELL GAHUI TO TAKE CARE OF JUEUN. LET'S GET OUT OF HERE.

BUT...EVEN IF WE DO HAVE THE CAR, WE DON'T HAVE THE KEY!

I KNOW WHAT TO DO.
GO GET THE GUYS

OKAY.
GET HYERI IN THE CAR WHILE I GET EVERYONE ELSE.
AND TAEIN...WATCH YOUR BACK.
SHIT!

WHAT...WHAT HAPPENED, HYERI?
I WAS GOING TO APOLOGIZE WHEN I GOT BACK.

NOW I'LL NEVER HAVE THE CHANCE.
WHO DID THIS TO YOU, HYERI?

WHO DID THIS?
I DOUBT THERE'D BE AN INTRUDER ALL THE WAY OUT HERE.
IT MUST BE ONE OF US.

GIHU! HE AND JEONGUN ARE ALWAYS FIGHTING.

THAT'S NOT IT.
I SEE WHY HE HATES JEONGUN, BUT...
...WHY HYERI?

NOBODY ELSE HAD A VENDETTA AGAINST JEONGUN.
BUT HOW COULD ANYBODY HATE HYERI?
IS THAT ALL YOU CAN THINK ABOUT, TAEIN?!
CAN'T YOU SEE THAT MY HEART IS BREAKING?!
DO YOU HAVE ANY IDEA HOW LONG I'VE LIKED YOU?
WAIT..

I'VE SEEN THIS BEFORE
YOU SEEM FAMILIAR
HAVE WE MET?
COULD IT BE...?
...NO WAY!

ROCK-A-BYE, BABY, IN THE TREETOP...
WHEN THE WIND BLOWS.
...THE CRADLE WILL ROCK... WHEN THE BOUGH BREAKS..

THE CRADLE WILL FALL...
AND DOWN WILL COME BABY CRADLE AND ALL!
BABY IS DROWSING COZY AND FAIR... MOTHER SITS NEAR IN HER ROCKING CHAIR..

FORWARD AND BACK, THE CRADLE SHE SWINGS...AND THOUGH BABY SLEEPS HE HEARS WHAT SHE SINGS!
FROM THE HIGH ROOFTOPS DOWN TO THE SEA...
NO ONE'S AS DEAR AS BABY TO ME! WEE LITTLE FINGERS EYES WIDE AND BRIGHT...

NOW, SOUND ASLEEP 'UNTIL MORNING LIGHT'
HOW COULD I HAVE FORGOTTEN?
IT'S THE SONG.

JUEUN!!

TO BE CONTINUED IN VOLUME 3

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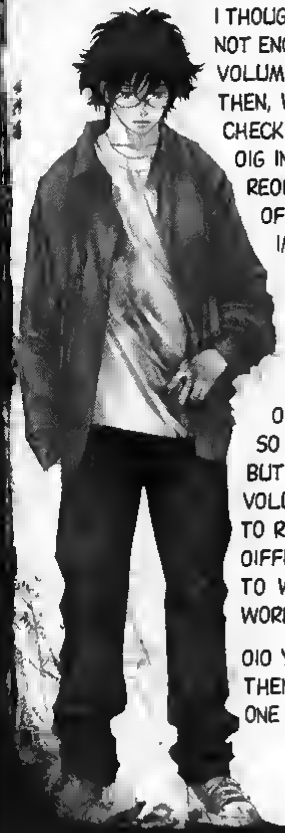
AUTHOR'S EXCUSES

IT'S FINALLY VOLUME TWO! IT WAS A STRUGGLE TO FINISH IT BY THE DEADLINE, AS I HADN'T BEEN FEELING TOO WELL. I JUST WANT TO SAY SORRY TO THE EDITORS AS I HAD SO MANY THINGS HAPPEN TO ME (DON'T HIT ME--SNIFF, SNIFF). I'LL BE REALLY QUICK WITH VOLUME THREE (ALTHOUGH THEY WON'T BELIEVE ME ANYMORE--SNIFF, SNIFF). I'LL HAVE TO MAKE IT UP TO MY ASSISTANTS BY BUYING THEM TASTY TREATS FOR REALLY MAKING THEM WORK DURING CRUNCH TIME. THIS VOLUME WAS REALLY DIFFICULT BECAUSE OF ALL THE BLOOD. THAT TOOK UP MORE TIME THAN I THOUGHT. I KILLED OFF TWO CHARACTERS, AND THAT'S NOT ENOUGH. I'LL HAVE TO SEND THREE MORE AWAY IN VOLUME THREE. EH? WHY THREE? THERE'S FOUR LEFT... THEN, WHO'LL BE THE SURVIVOR? IF YOU'RE CURIOUS, CHECK OUT VOLUME THREE. NO NEED TO REALLY DIG INTO IT. IT'S REALLY SIMPLE. IN OTHER WORDS, REDRUM ISN'T A MYSTERY. THINGS LIKE THE "METHOD OF THE MURDER" AND "WHO'S THE CULPRIT" AREN'T IMPORTANT. RATHER, THE QUESTION OF "WHY WAS THE MURDER COMMITTED?" IS THE FOCAL POINT. I TRIED FOCUSING ON THE SUBJECTS OF 'PURE EVIL' AND A MURDERER'S UNJUSTIFIABLE THOUGHTS OF THE MURDERS, SO THIS IS MORE OF A PSYCHOLOGICAL THRILLER THAN A MYSTERY. OF COURSE, THIS IS A REALLY DIFFICULT GENRE, SO I'M STILL COMING UP SHORT IN A LOT OF AREAS, BUT PLEASE BEAR WITH ME AND ENJOY THE NEXT VOLUME. AFTER FINISHING VOLUME THREE, I PLAN TO REST A BIT BEFORE GETTING BACK TO WORK. IT'S DIFFICULT JUST THINKING ABOUT HAVING TO GO BACK TO WORK, BUT THANKS TO ALL THE ENCOURAGING WORDS FROM THE FANS, I'LL TRY MY BEST.



DID YOU HAVE A GOOD TIME READING VOLUME TWO? THEN I HAD A GREAT TIME AS WELL! (I'VE HEARD THAT ONE SOMEWHERE...)

OCTOBER 2003, YA-SEONG KO

##THE "WHITE HAND" STORY##

FROM VOLUME ONE, DO YOU REMEMBER THE WHITE HAND STORY THAT JEONGUN TOLD THE OTHERS AFTER HYERI REQUESTS A SCARY STORY? THIS STORY IS ORIGINALLY TITLED, "WHITE HAND - INVITATION FROM DEATH" BY HORROR NOVELIST HUIGYEONG HAN. I FIRST READ THIS STORY AT A HORROR WEBSITE THAT I FREQUENT, AND I WAS LOOKING FOR A HORROR STORY THAT JEONGUN WAS GOING TO TELL. THE ORIGINAL "WHITE HAND - INVITATION FROM DEATH" IS A SHORT STORY PUBLISHED AT A HORROR PORTAL WEBSITE CALLED UNDERFREE (HTTP://WWW.UNDERFREE.COM), AND THE SETTING IS KOREA. I REALLY LIKE THE TOPIC OF MULTIPLE PERSONALITIES, SO WHEN I READ THIS STORY, I THOUGHT IT WAS GREAT. SO I CHANGED IT A BIT AND INCLUDED IT IN MY STORY - I KNOW THAT TAKING MATERIAL FROM OTHERS ON THE NET IS A BAD THING, SO I WANT TO APOLOGIZE TO THE ORIGINAL AUTHOR. I WAS SCARED OF GETTING INTO COPYRIGHT ISSUES, BUT FORTUNATELY, THE FINE FOLKS AT UNDERFREE WORKED WITH ME TO COME TO AN AMICABLE SOLUTION. I WANT TO OFFICIALLY APOLOGIZE TO THE ORIGINAL AUTHOR, AND EVERYONE, LET'S NOT TAKE THINGS FROM THE NET FOR YOUR OWN USE!

*HUIGYEONG HAN

BORN IN 1976. RESEARCH SUPERVISOR OF UNDERFREE. HER WRITING ISN'T SHOWY, BUT IT'S SIMPLE AND HITS CLOSE-TO-HOME. AND ON TOP OF THAT, HER ABILITY TO DESCRIBE DETAILS AND HER FLUID LITERARY STYLE HAS GARNISHED HER INCREDIBLE POPULARITY. HER DILIGENCE HAS CONTINUALLY PRODUCED A NUMBER OF GEMS. HER WORKS INCLUDE SHORT STORIES SUCH AS "SMELL: THE ORIGIN OF AN EVIL SMELL," "TESTIMONY OF A GHOST: THIS IS DEATH!" AND "THE TOWN WHERE THE BEAST LIVES. THE TRAP OF IMMORTALITY," AND SHE HAS PUBLISHED FIVE VOLUMES OF *AFFAIR*.

HUIGYEONG HAN

*UNDERFREE

FORMED IN 1997 BY STANDOUT AUTHORS FROM FOUR BIG INTERNET PORTALS (NOWNURI, HITEL, UNITEL, AND CHOLIAN). IT'S CONTINUING TO GROW AS A SITE OF PURE CREATIVE WORK. IT PRODUCED A NUMBER OF LITERARY WORKS, SCENARIOS, SCRIPT WRITERS, AND TOP AUTHORS. CURRENTLY THE IDEA-MAKERS AT UNDERFREE OPERATE THE BIGGEST HORROR PORTAL SITE. UNDERFREE IS ALWAYS UP FOR FINDING NEW CREATIVE WORKS AND SKILLED AUTHORS.

REDRUM327

CARTOON & STORY
KO, YA SUNG

STAFF
CHOI, BO YOUNG
PARK, SO YOUN

EDITOR
KANG, WOO SIK

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NEXT TIME IN

THE CREW'S SECRETS ARE FINALLY COMING TO LIGHT, EVEN AS THE BODY COUNT RISES. WE LEARN THE HISTORY OF HA AND JUEUN. TAEIN REALIZES HYERI SENT A DYING MESSAGE TO THE CREW. AND GIHU EXPLAINS A HORRIFYING INCIDENT THAT HAPPENED YEARS AGO...AND HAS COME BACK TO HAUNT THEM ALL.

Ritsuzen Manga

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FRIENDSHIPS BEGIN TO SOUR AMONG THE CREW. GIHU BLUNTLY ADVISES TAEIN TO STOP PLAYING THE HERO. A CLASH BETWEEN JUEUN AND HA REVEALS A MYSTERIOUS CONNECTION BETWEEN THE TWO. AND THE DISCOVERY OF A BODY BRINGS OUT THE TRUE NATURE OF THE MOST UNLIKELY PERSON OF ALL . . .

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